

## CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Comptroller's Investigative Report January 3, 2019

Justin P. Wilson, Comptroller





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Comptroller

Jason E. Mumpower *Chief of Staff* 

January 3, 2019

Director of Schools and School Board Members Clarksville-Montgomery County Schools 621 Gracey Avenue Clarksville, TN 37040

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury conducted an investigation of selected records of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System, and the results are presented herein.

Copies of this report are being forwarded to Governor Bill Haslam, the State Attorney General, the District Attorney General of the 19th Judicial District, certain state legislators, and various other interested parties. A copy is available for public inspection in our office and may be viewed at <a href="http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/">http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/ia/</a>.

Sincerely,

Justin P. Wilson

Comptroller of the Treasury

JPW/RAD



## **INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

## CLARKSVILLE-MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

The Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury investigated allegations of malfeasance related to Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (school system). The Comptroller's Office initiated the investigation after officials with the school system reported questionable transactions related to a maintenance employee's procurement card.

## **INVESTIGATIVE RESULTS**

• Former Clarksville-Montgomery County School System maintenance employee Shay Patterson misappropriated funds totaling at least \$1,750

During the period March 2018 through May 2018, maintenance employee Shay Patterson misappropriated school system funds totaling at least \$1,750. Patterson perpetrated his scheme by making personal purchases using his school system-issued procurement card without the knowledge or approval of school system officials. These personal purchases included materials for a private remodeling project, fuel, cigarettes, personal auto insurance, and driver's license renewal. [Refer to Exhibits 1 and 2.]

In addition, Patterson inappropriately used the school system's government tax-exempt status on his personal purchase of remodeling supplies for a private project. As noted, he was not charged the required taxes. [Refer to Exhibit 1.]

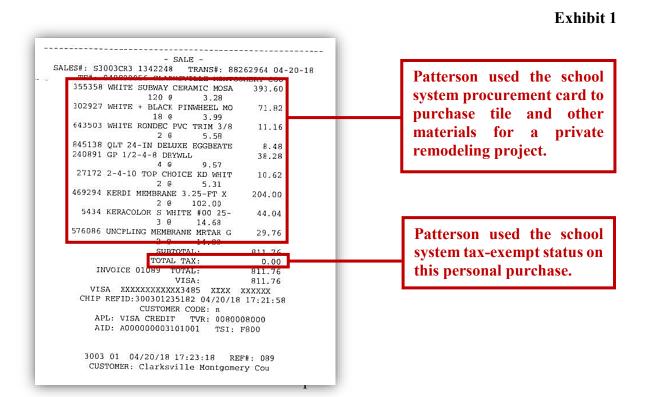
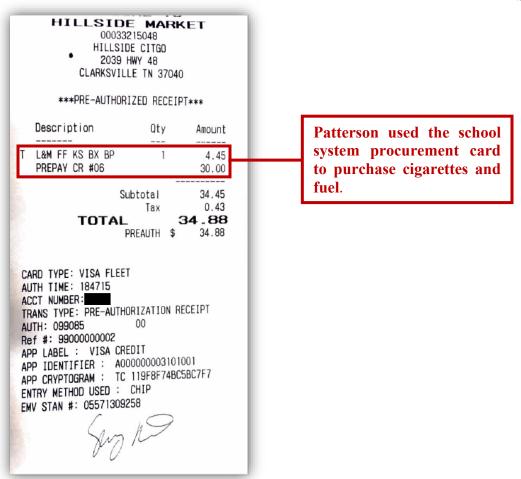


Exhibit 2



In May 2018, Patterson paid a total of \$1,750 to the school system for personal charges on his school system procurement card, claiming to school officials that the card had been mistakenly used by a family member. Patterson later admitted to Comptroller investigators that, without the knowledge or the authority of school officials, he used his school system procurement card for personal purchases. Patterson stated that he used the procurement card as a loan because he was in a temporary financial hardship. He further stated that he knew it was wrong to use the procurement card for personal purchases.

Patterson's employment with the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System was terminated on May 17, 2018.

We referred this matter to the local district attorney general. On December 4, 2018, the Montgomery County Grand Jury indicted Shay Patterson on one count of Theft over \$1,000 and one count of Fraudulent Use of a Credit or Debit Card.